

# Stem Cells

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## Embryonic Stem Cells

“Embryonic stem cells...are in effect, a human self-repair kit,” (Christopher Reeve, activist – Larry King show). For the advancement of science, stem cells are infinitely valuable, especially when considering all the potential applications in the field of medicine. [Stem](#) cell usage is a very controversial topic, because most people think of abortions, cloning, and other negative topics when they hear the term stem cell.

However I think those thoughts are because they don't understand what a stem cell is, where it comes from, or its monumental possibilities that could greatly benefit the medical field.

There are already demonstrations of Stem cells possibilities, because treatment with stem cells has already begun. They have been taken from umbilical cords and become healthy red cells used to cure sickle-[cell anemia](#). Stem cell therapy is also being used against certain types of cancer. Stem Cells are valuable due to the fact that they are non-designated and they have the ability to divide and multiply indefinitely. Thus, theoretically stem cells could fix and even replace any damaged or lost specific cells within a body.

They are easily found in early embryos, but their numbers variety for development seem to become less in the adult stem cells. The information above is only what we know right now, but that's just the tip of the iceberg. If we know stem cells can already contribute to helping cancer, sickle-cell anemia, and repairing/replacing cells, then obviously the more we know, the more beneficial the use of stem cells would become.

These helpful stem cells come from three types of cells, based upon their potential developmental capability. Though each of the types are obtained differently, they can complete their own set of useful functions. These are the Totipotent, Pluripotent, and Multipotent stem cells.

The Totipotent stem cells are found when the egg is fertilized/conceived. This type isn't specialized, so can form many different tissues and cells. These are probably the most helpful, because they are immortal stem cells that can even create placenta and other tissues required in fetal development (Science Center, worksheet). This means that they are super stem cells and can create more than any other type.

Second, the Pluripotent cells can be found in the inner layers of cells in a growing embryo or from ...

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...neficial. I believe the research should always be legal. Stem cells hold so many possibilities, that I don't see reasons to ignore them. The more we learn from stem cells, the more chances of threats to human health are eliminated. Over time and with the different types, people will realize that stem research is more good than bad.

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